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If the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans were switched, placing China closer to the Americas than Europe, it would have significantly impacted the course of world history. Chinese maritime goals during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) were primarily focused on establishing diplomatic relations with foreign powers, expanding trade networks, and acquiring tribute from other countries. China's famous admiral Zheng He led several expeditions across the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia, India, and East Africa to promote Chinese influence and collect tribute from foreign leaders.

In contrast, European maritime goals during the Age of Exploration were focused on finding new trade routes to the Far East, acquiring wealth through the establishment of colonies, and spreading Christianity. European powers sought to bypass the Ottomans' control of traditional trade routes to Asia and establish direct trade relations with the source of the spices, silks, and other luxury goods coveted by European elites. Additionally, they saw the acquisition of new territories and resources as a way to enrich their nations and secure their power.

If China had discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire, it would have been a vastly different experience than the European "discovery" of the Americas. Zheng He's expedition would likely have been a diplomatic mission rather than a conquest, and his goal would have been to establish friendly relations and acquire tribute from the Aztecs. Unlike the Europeans, the Chinese would not have been motivated by a desire for territorial expansion or the spread of religion. The Aztecs, on the other hand, would have viewed the Chinese with curiosity and wonder, as they had never encountered people from such a distant land before.

The Chinese and the Aztecs may have established a trading relationship, with the Chinese offering silk, porcelain, and other luxury goods in exchange for gold, silver, and other resources. The Chinese may have also shared their knowledge of astronomy, mathematics, and technology with the Aztecs, as they did with other civilizations they encountered on their voyages. However, it is unlikely that the Chinese would have sought to colonize the Aztec Empire, as their focus was on expanding their influence and collecting tribute rather than territorial acquisition.

In conclusion, if the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans were switched, and China was closer to the Americas, the "discovery" of the New World by the Chinese would have been vastly different from the European experience. The Chinese would have approached the Aztecs with a diplomatic mission rather than a conquest, seeking to establish friendly relations and acquire tribute. The encounter would have been characterized by mutual curiosity and the exchange of goods and knowledge rather than violence and exploitation.

